

**CCEMS  
OPERATIONS POLICY 100-28  
VEHICLE OPERATIONS  
SPEED LIMIT/ USE OF LIGHTS AND SIRENS/ SAFETY RESTRAINTS**

**I. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To protect CCEMS personnel and the public from injury as a result of excessive speed in emergent and non-emergent use of CCEMS vehicles.
- 1.2 To ensure all CCEMS personnel are aware of state and local speed limits, traffic control devices, and their requirement to obey all traffic laws while operating all CCEMS vehicles during **emergency** and **non-emergency** operations.
- 1.3 To define when crews should utilize lights and sirens.
- 1.4 To maintain safety of all CCEMS personnel and passengers by utilizing safety restraints while in a CCEMS vehicle.


**II. POLICY**

- 2.1 In **non-emergency** operations, all CCEMS vehicles will be operated in accordance with all state and local traffic laws.
- 2.2 In **emergency** operations, all CCEMS vehicles will be operated in accordance with state and local traffic laws.
- 2.3 The use of lights and sirens will typically be reserved for calls involving:
  - 2.3.1 Airway Compromise;
  - 2.3.2 Breathing Compromise;
  - 2.3.3 Circulatory Compromise;
  - 2.3.4 Altered Mental Status;
  - 2.3.5 Auto Accidents or any type of significant trauma or life threatening injuries.
- 2.4 All CCEMS personnel and passengers will properly utilize safety restraints while driving or riding in a CCEMS vehicle.

**III. PROCEDURE**

- 3.1 During **non-emergency** operations, operators of CCEMS vehicles will operate vehicles in accordance with all state and local traffic laws.
- 3.2 During **emergency** operations, operators of CCEMS vehicles will operate vehicles with both emergency lights and sirens activated.
  - 3.2.1 In the event that either the emergency lights and/or siren fail to operate, the operator of the vehicle will immediately notify Central Dispatch of the problem and continue their response as a **non-emergency** response.
- 3.3 During **emergency** operations, operators of CCEMS vehicles WILL NOT exceed the posted speed limit in any school zone during posted restricted hours or flashing light operations.

- 3.4 During **emergency** operations, operators of CCEMS vehicles will not pass a stopped school bus that presents with activated yellow or red flashing lights, unless motioned to pass by the bus driver.
- 3.5 During **emergency** operations, operators of CCEMS vehicles will make a complete stop before proceeding through any intersection, traffic signal, or other traffic control devices.
- 3.6 During **emergency and non-emergency** operations, operators of CCEMS vehicles will function with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street or highway.
- 3.7 Due to the increased risks, every attempt will be made to minimize the use of lights and sirens. Typically, crews will only respond lights and sirens to calls as identified in section 2.3 of this document. However, crews are permitted to deviate from this policy for unusual circumstances: i.e.; limited patient information from dispatch, large traffic congestions, etc. The decision to deviate from set policy will be made and justified by the senior EMT.
- 3.8 Seat belts are required to be worn at all times while operating and riding in CCEMS vehicles. The only exception to this requirement is while attending to patient care when seat belts would restrict access to the patient or necessary equipment.
- 3.9 Child safety seats and restraint systems should be utilized for infant and children passengers who are either or both under the age of four and weighing less than 40 pounds.
- 3.10 All CCEMS personnel are to immediately report any malfunction or damage to vehicle passenger restraint devices.
- 3.11 The safe use of speed and seatbelt usage will be monitored in vehicles that are equipped with the "Road Safety Device" Infractions found on the "RSD" reports will be dealt with by the Director or Assistant Director.
- 3.12 Cell phone texting while operating a CCEMS vehicle is strictly prohibited.
- 3.13 Negligence or failure to follow this policy will result in discipline procedures up to and including employment termination.

Director: 

Effective: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised: 11-5-2010